

## Candidate Biography of John McCay III

John McCay was born on July 8, 1975 to John and Barbara McCay, Jr. John's father, John Jr., is a retired Chief Master Sergeant in the Mississippi Air National Guard and John's mother, Barbara, is a public school teacher. McCay also has a younger brother, Stephen, who attends the University of Southern Mississippi. John McCay, III is a life long resident of the 4<sup>th</sup> District.

McCay graduated with honors from Gulfport High School in 1993. In 1995, he earned an Associate of Arts degree from the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. Then in 1997, McCay earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Southern Mississippi. While in junior college, McCay was an officer in the College Republican Club. In the fall of 1997, McCay arrived at Emory University, Candler School of Theology and earned thirty-nine hours before transferring to the Memphis Theological Seminary in Memphis. McCay was awarded the Master of Divinity degree in May of 2000. Currently, McCay is pursuing a Ph.D. from Trinity Theological Seminary in Indiana. McCay has served United Methodist Churches since 1994. He has served the Bond United Methodist Church in Stone County, the Winborn Chapel United Methodist Church in Greene County, the Shipman United Methodist Church in George County, the Gateway United Methodist Church in Gulfport, and currently serves the Trinity United Methodist Church in Picayune.

McCay serves as the Conference Chairman of the Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns Committee for the Mississippi Annual Conference. He also serves as the Clergy President of the Seashore District.

McCay serves on various committees and boards in the Methodist Church.

McCay is also a Chaplain in the Mississippi Air National Guard where he holds the rank of Captain. He is assigned to the 172<sup>nd</sup> Air Wing in Jackson and the Trent Lott National Guard Training Complex in Gulfport. His military career started in March of 1998. Among his military awards are the Air Force Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Mississippi War Medal and the Mississippi Emergency Medal. Due to McCay's work after Hurricane Katrina, he was selected as the United States Air National Guard 2006 Chaplain of the Year.

McCay is also active in the Boy Scouts of America Pine Burr Area Council. He is an Eagle Scout and a Vigil Honor Member of the Order of the Arrow. McCay is also a member of the National Eagle Scout Association. In 2003, McCay was awarded the District Award of Merit, Pine Burr Award, for his work in the Spanish Trail District. He has served Scouting units as a Cubmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, Troop Committee Member, and Chaplain. For the last several years, McCay has served the Spanish Trail District as the Membership Chairman, District Interim Chairman, and currently as the District Vice Chairman. While in Gulfport, McCay was involved in the Orange Grove-Lyman Chamber of Commerce. He also served on the Board of the Christian Care Ministries in Picayune. McCay has been a member of Kiwanis International since 2004. Also, McCay is a member of the University of Southern Mississippi Alumni Association.